

Norton Correctional Facility
Kansas Department of Corrections

Education/Vocational Programming

Academic Improvement: 20 slots

Medium perimeter – M, W, F AM - 8:30 to 11:00 PM – 12:00 to 3:00

Vocational Trades: 12 slots

M – T 7:20 AM to 1:00 PM

100 YEARS OF STATE SERVICE ON NCF GROUNDS

1914-1968: Norton Tuberculosis Sanatorium

1963-1987: Norton State Hospital

1967-1968: Valley Hope Alcohol Treatment Center

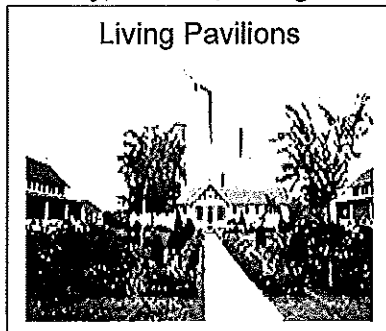
1987-Present: Norton Correctional Facility

Over the years, the type of service provided on this land currently inhabited by Norton Correctional Facility has changed many times. One thing that has never changed is the desire to help people. We still come to work every day so that we can make a difference in the life of another person. This brief historical review is intended to recognize the role this facility has taken the last 100 years.

How we got to where we are now...

In 1911 the Kansas Legislature approved \$50,000 to be used to create a State run tuberculosis sanatorium where those who were afflicted by this severe epidemic could live during their lengthy treatment. Norton residents campaigned to have the hospital built here with several local residents offering to donate up to 160 acres of land. Although several towns tried hard to secure the institution, the State awarded the bid to Norton County. The site was chosen because of its ideal location, the abundance of exceptionally pure drinking water and the averaged 300 sunshiny days in the year. An additional 80 acres of land was purchased at that time; additional acreage was added throughout the past century bringing the current total acreage to 644. Clean up and excavation began in July 1913 and the first cornerstone for the new hospital was laid June 14, 1914. It bore the inscription, "In the health of the people lies the strength of the nation". For more information regarding the TB sanitarium, on the Web go to http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ksncgs2/State/tuberculosis_san.htm on your home computer.

The hospital grounds were designed to create a self-sufficient community and were commonly known by local residents as "The San". The first patient homes were wood framed buildings called pavilions. When the first sixteen patients arrived February 8, 1915, the grounds boasted a living pavilion, boiler house, laundry, kitchen, dining room and 20-acre garden. During the next decade additional pavilions were built



Living Pavilions

and land was purchased. In 1917 a farming industry materialized - fields were planted, barns were built, and livestock and chickens were purchased, all as a means for feeding the patients. Dairy cows provided milk, an essential part of the diet for treatment of TB. Homes were built for doctors and other staff and their families (the remaining are now known as Cottages).



In 1951 an employee dormitory, (now D-Unit), was added. The house that was on grounds

served as the Superintendent's home and remained in this capacity until the inception of NCF. It was demolished in 1998 to make room for the Industries Building that currently houses KCI and Wheels for the World/Bikes for Youngsters and will soon include Hess Industries. In 1926 the first permanent hospital building (named after Dr. Samuel Crumbine) was constructed and currently serves NCF as B-Unit. Also in 1926 the administration building (tagged Bolt House after the first social worker Maude Bolt) was built and is now the Education Building/Shift Office. The Kenney building was built in 1939 and was named after the hospital's first superintendent - it serves NCF as A-Unit. The wood framed pavilions were demolished during the 1950s. Following four years of campaigning by patients, employees and local residents, the All Faiths Chapel was built and dedicated November 18, 1951; the cornerstone of All Faiths Chapel promotes that services are not to be confined to or defined by members of any one race, denomination or creed. A new dietary building (referred to Lathrop) was attached to the Kenney building in 1952 and is used by food service employees today.

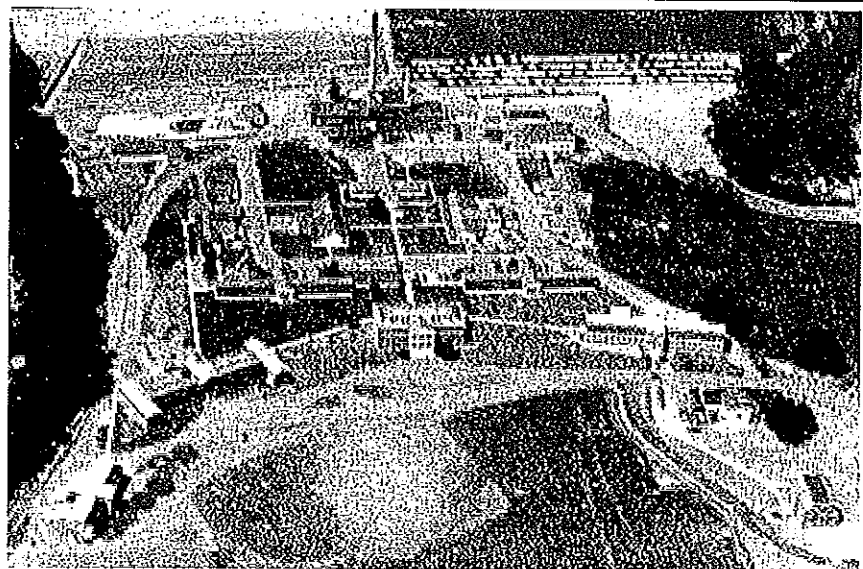


The current Education Building is on the left. In the middle is a living pavilion with the smokestack from the powerhouse and water tower behind. To the right is the former Taylor building. It and Hebert building (formerly southwest of B-Unit) were built to house TB patients. For a few years, mentally underdeveloped patients resided in those structures, but due to ADA regulations and the cost of renovations, they were deemed unusable for this purpose. They were torn down in 1987 and the NCF perimeter fence was built.

For sixteen months in 1967-68, the nurse's quarters functioned as the first home for the Valley Hope Alcoholism Treatment Center. This building first served NCF as Staff Development and currently as Re-Entry.

Although it is not known how many patients lived at the sanatorium during the first decade, 80-90 staff was employed in 1928 and the hospital averaged 135 patients daily. Eventually it was expanded to accommodate 405 patients with 250 staff.

The need for the tuberculosis hospital decreased as the epidemic became more controlled. Additional housing needs for the State's mentally handicapped rose. This site was selected to accommodate this demand and Norton State Hospital was created July 1, 1967. Conversions were made to house this new type of patient; the first fifteen arrived in July 1963 and were housed in Crumbine. By 1967, only 35 TB patients remained; the sanatorium was officially terminated on June 30, 1968 after operating in



This picture was taken sometime between 1926 and 1939.
First row: Hebert, Crumbine (B-Unit); Bolt Administration (Education)
Taylor, Superintendent's House, Nurses Quarters (Re-Entry);
Middle: Living Pavilions and Commissary;
Far back: Agricultural Area, Home (Cottage 9), Powerhouse

conjunction with the State Hospital for five years. The State Hospital eventually housed 430 residents and employed 339 staff. Federal mandates to achieve more active treatment for the mentally retarded via community-based, small group homes gradually replaced large institutions and once again, the number of patients began dwindling. The Governor's task force began looking for alternative uses for the property.

Thanks to local citizens working diligently with the Kansas Legislature and Department of Corrections, it was determined the physical plant was conducive to serving as a prison. State hospital buildings were renovated into inmate living quarters or destroyed. At 11:13 a.m. on September 22, 1987 the first 24 minimum custody inmates arrived at NCF – their job was to help remodel buildings and build fences. Inmates continue to work on the physical needs of the facility and minimum custody work crews also assist many local, county and state run entities such as the Prairie Dog State Park, City of Norton, and the Atwood community. KDOC's need for additional medium custody beds resulted in a brand new living unit built at NCF; C-Unit was brought online in 1999. Currently, NCF employs a total 300 administrative, security, support and contract employees. The total bed capacity for NCF-CU is 707; 168 are minimum custody and the remaining low medium.